

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 284, S.D. 2

March 25, 2015
10:30 A.M.

RELATING TO TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

Senate Bill No. 284, S.D.2, allocates \$3,000,000 of transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues to the special land and development fund to be expended in accordance with the long-range strategic plan for tourism. The bill also authorizes the Department of Budget and Finance (the "Department") to issue \$40,000,000 in revenue bonds and to use the proceeds to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, requires the Department to transfer the conservation easement to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and allocates TAT revenues of \$3,000,000 annually to the Department to pay the debt service on the revenue bonds and ongoing expenses related to the bonds.

The Department supports this measure. With respect to the Department, the amendments to Senate Bill No. 284, S.D.2, in the attached proposed Senate Bill No. 284, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, prepared by the Department of the Attorney General, are primarily to 1) establish a special fund in the Department (as opposed to in DLNR) to receive the revenue bond proceeds and the TAT revenues for the payment of debt service, and 2) require DLNR to be responsible for the acquisition of the conservation easement and other matters relating to the conservation easement.

Furthermore, current market conditions with minimal structuring requirements may allow for the issuance of \$40,000,000 of revenue bonds with annual debt service and related issuance expenses being less than \$3,000,000 per year. However, should interest rates rise and/or investors require increased structuring considerations, such as a revenue coverage ratio in excess of one to one or the funding of a debt service reserve fund, additional funding in excess of \$3,000,000 per year may be necessary to finance the acquisition of the conservation easement in Turtle Bay.

In addition, the issuance of general obligation bonds would be a lower cost financing alternative and more efficient means of financing as it would not require the establishment of a new revenue bond credit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

THE SENATE

S.B. NO. 284

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015

S.D. 2, H.D.1

STATE OF HAWAII

3/16/2015

PROPOSED

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

PART I

SECTION 1. The purpose of this part is to establish a method to use transient accommodations tax revenues to pay for the debt service on revenue bonds, the proceeds of which will be used to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural resources important to the State.

The legislature finds that the transient accommodations tax revenues are substantially derived from the visitor industry and comprise user taxes. The source of funding for the Turtle Bay conservation easement will be revenue bonds issued by the department of budget and finance. The debt service on the revenue bonds will be paid from the transient accommodations tax revenues. The proceeds from the revenue bonds and the transient accommodations tax revenues will be deposited into the North Shore special fund. The revenue bond proceeds in the

North Shore special fund will then be transferred for deposit into the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund administered by the department of land and natural resources. The role of the department of budget and finance is solely to facilitate the financing of this transaction and to pay debt service on the revenue bonds with the department of land and natural resources purchasing the Turtle Bay conservation easement. The legislature finds that the financing of the Turtle Bay conservation easement is essential to the execution of the transaction and is for a public purpose.

The legislature also finds that the acquisition of the Turtle Bay conservation easement by the department of ~~[budget and finance]~~ land and natural resources is for the purpose of supporting, encouraging and enhancing the natural beauty of Oahu's north shore, which, by sustaining the visitor industry attracting visitors to the State, will contribute to the amounts of transient accommodations tax revenues collected. The legislature further finds that the acquisition of the Turtle Bay conservation easement by the department of ~~[budget and finance]~~ land and natural resources ~~[and its subsequent transfer to the department of land and natural resources]~~ is crucial to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the State's natural resources and to the State's economic well-being, and is for a public purpose.

This part:

(1) Authorizes the department of budget and finance to issue \$40,000,000 in revenue bonds and ~~[transfers and appropriates the proceeds]~~ deposits the proceeds into the North Shore special fund; [to use the proceeds to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu;]

(2) Requires the department of budget and finance~~[-upon acquisition,]~~ to transfer the ~~[conservation easement]~~ revenue bond proceeds from the North Shore special fund to the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund; [to the department of land and natural resources; and]

(3) Appropriates \$40,000,000 out of the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund for the department of land and natural resources to acquire a conservation easement at Turtle Bay, Oahu; and

~~[(3)]~~ (4) Allocates transient accommodations tax revenues of \$3,000,000 annually to the department of budget and finance to pay the debt service on the revenue bonds and ongoing expenses related to the issuance of the bonds.

- SECTION 2. Chapter 37, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

- **"§37-A Revenue bonds for conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu. (a)**
The department of budget and finance shall issue revenue bonds to provide funding for the acquisition of a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural resources important to the State. The conservation easement shall be in compliance with chapters 171 and 198.

- (b) For the purpose of this section, the acquisition of the conservation easement shall be deemed an undertaking under part III of chapter 39.

- (c) The revenue bonds issued to acquire the conservation easement shall be secured by and payable from the transient accommodations tax revenues allocated to the department of budget and finance special fund established by section 37-B. The transient accommodations tax revenues are and shall be deemed user taxes. The revenues allocated shall be deemed user taxes pursuant to chapter 39 for the undertaking.

- (d) The revenue bonds shall be issued in accordance with chapter 39, part III.

§37-B North Shore special fund. (a) There is established the North Shore special fund to be administered by the department of budget and finance.

(b) Transient accommodations tax revenues allocated to the North Shore special fund pursuant to section 237D-6.5 shall be deposited into the special fund. All interest earned on the moneys in the special fund shall be credited to the special fund.

(c) Moneys in the North Shore special fund shall be expended to provided financing for the acquisition of a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, and pay the debt service on revenue bonds issued to acquire that conservation easement.

(d) The North Shore special fund shall be exempt from the central service expenses of section 36-27 and departmental administrative expenses of section 36-30."

SECTION 3. Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§171-B Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund. (a) There is established the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund to be administered by the department of ~~[budget and finance.]~~ land and natural resources.

(b) All interest earned on the moneys in the special fund shall be credited to the special fund.

(c) Moneys in the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund shall be expended to ~~[pay the debt service on revenue bonds issued]~~ to acquire the conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu.

(d) The Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund shall be exempt from the central service expenses of section 36-27 and departmental administrative expenses of section 36-30.

(e) Upon payment of all debt service at maturity on the revenue bonds issued to acquire the conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, any unencumbered and unexpended moneys in the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund shall be transferred to the tourism special fund established under section 201B-11.

§171-C Turtle Bay appraisal and due diligence. Any appraisal and due diligence completed by the Hawaii tourism authority may be used by the department of land and natural resources for the acquisition of the Turtle Bay conservation easement."

SECTION 4. Section 87A-42, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

"(d) In any fiscal year subsequent to the 2017-2018 fiscal year in which a county public employer's contributions into the fund are less than the amount of the annual required contribution, the amount that represents the excess of the annual required contribution over the county public employer's contributions shall be deposited into the fund from a portion of all transient accommodations tax revenues collected by the department of taxation under section ~~[237D-6.5(b)(3)]~~ 237D-6.5(b)(4). The director of finance shall deduct the amount necessary to meet the county public employer's annual required contribution from the revenues derived under section ~~[237D-6.5(b)(3)]~~ 237D-6.5(b)(4) and transfer the amount to the board for deposit into the appropriate account of the separate trust fund."

SECTION 5. Section 171-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"§171-19 Special land and development fund. (a) There is created in the department a special fund to be designated as the "special land and development fund". Subject to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended, and section 5(f) of the Admission Act of 1959, all proceeds of sale of public lands, including interest on deferred payments; all moneys collected under section 171-58 for mineral and water rights; all rents from leases, licenses, and permits derived from public lands; all moneys collected from lessees of public lands within industrial parks; all fees, fines, and other administrative charges collected under this chapter and chapter 183C; a portion of the highway fuel tax collected under chapter 243; all moneys collected by the department for the commercial use of public trails and trail accesses under the jurisdiction of the department; transient accommodations tax revenues collected pursuant to section ~~[237D-6.5(b)(2)]~~ 237D-6.5(b)(5); and private contributions for the management, maintenance, and development of trails and accesses shall be set apart in the fund and shall be used only as authorized by the legislature for the following purposes:

(1) To reimburse the general fund of the State for advances made that are required to be reimbursed from the proceeds derived from sales, leases, licenses, or permits of public lands;

(2) For the planning, development, management, operations, or maintenance of all lands and improvements under the control and management of the board~~;~~ pursuant to title 12, including but not limited to permanent or temporary staff positions who may be appointed without regard to chapter 76; provided that transient accommodations tax revenues allocated to the fund shall be expended as provided in section 237D-6.5(b)(5);

(3) To repurchase any land, including improvements, in the exercise by the board of any right of repurchase specifically reserved in any patent, deed, lease, or other documents or as provided by law;

(4) For the payment of all appraisal fees; provided that all fees reimbursed to the board shall be deposited in the fund;

(5) For the payment of publication notices as required under this chapter; provided that all or a portion of the expenditures may be charged to the purchaser or lessee of public lands or any interest therein under rules adopted by the board;

(6) For the management, maintenance, and development of trails and trail accesses under the jurisdiction of the department;

(7) For the payment to private land developers who have contracted with the board for development of public lands under section 171-60;

(8) For the payment of debt service on revenue bonds issued by the department, and the establishment of debt service and other reserves deemed necessary by the board;

(9) To reimburse the general fund for debt service on general obligation bonds issued to finance departmental projects, where the bonds are designated to be reimbursed from the special land and development fund;

(10) For the protection, planning, management, and regulation of water resources under chapter 174C; and

(11) For other purposes of this chapter."

SECTION 6. Section 201B-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) Moneys in the convention center enterprise special fund shall be used by the authority for the payment of any and all of the following:

(1) Debt owed to the department of budget and finance relating to the convention center~~[-; provided that, after the restructuring required by section 5 of Act 81, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, the annual debt service payment owed to the department shall not exceed \$16,500,000 from fiscal year 2014-2015 until fully retired]; and~~

(2) Expenses arising from any and all use, operation, maintenance, alteration, improvement, or any unforeseen or unplanned repairs of the convention center, including without limitation the food and beverage service and parking service provided at the convention center facility, the sale of souvenirs, logo items, or other items, for any future major repair, maintenance, and improvement of the convention center facility as a commercial enterprise or as a world class facility for conventions, entertainment, or public events, and for marketing the facility pursuant to section 201B-7(a)(7)."

SECTION 7. Section 237D-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) Revenues collected under this chapter shall be distributed ~~[as follows,]~~ in the following priority, with the excess revenues to be deposited into the general fund:

(1) \$3,000,000 shall be allocated to the North Shore special fund beginning July 1, 2015, for the payment of debt service on revenue bonds, including ongoing expenses related to the issuance of the bonds, the proceeds of which were used to acquire the conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural resources important to the State, until the bonds are fully amortized;

~~[(4)]~~ (2) \$26,500,000 shall be allocated to the convention center enterprise special fund established under section 201B-8;

~~[(2)]~~ (3) \$82,000,000 shall be allocated to the tourism special fund established under section 201B-11; provided that:

(A) Beginning on July 1, 2012, and ending on June 30, 2015, \$2,000,000 shall be expended from the tourism special fund for development and implementation of initiatives to take advantage of expanded visa programs and increased travel opportunities for international visitors to Hawaii;

(B) Of the \$82,000,000 allocated:

(i) \$1,000,000 shall be allocated for the operation of a Hawaiian center and the museum of Hawaiian music and dance at the Hawaii convention center; and

(ii) 0.5 per cent of the \$82,000,000 shall be transferred to a sub-account in the tourism special fund to provide funding for a safety and security budget, in accordance with the Hawaii tourism strategic plan 2005-2015; and

(C) Of the revenues remaining in the tourism special fund after revenues have been deposited as provided in this paragraph and except for any sum authorized by the legislature for expenditure from revenues subject to this paragraph, beginning July 1, 2007, funds shall be deposited into the tourism emergency trust fund, established in section 201B-10, in a manner sufficient to maintain a fund balance of \$5,000,000 in the tourism emergency trust fund;

~~[(3)]~~ (4) \$103,000,000 for fiscal year 2014-2015, \$103,000,000 for fiscal year 2015-2016, and \$93,000,000 for each fiscal year thereafter shall be allocated as follows: Kauai county shall receive 14.5 per cent, Hawaii county shall receive 18.6 per cent, city and county of Honolulu shall receive 44.1 per cent, and Maui county shall receive 22.8 per cent; provided that commencing with fiscal year 2018-2019, a sum that represents the difference between a county

public employer's annual required contribution for the separate trust fund established under section 87A-42 and the amount of the county public employer's contributions into that trust fund shall be retained by the state director of finance and deposited to the credit of the county public employer's annual required contribution into that trust fund in each fiscal year, as provided in section 87A-42, if the respective county fails to remit the total amount of the county's required annual contributions, as required under section 87A-43; and

~~[(4) \$3,000,000 shall be allocated to the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund established under section 201B-8.6 for the payment of debt service on revenue bonds, the proceeds of which were used to acquire the conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, until the bonds are fully amortized; and]~~

(5) ~~[Of the excess revenues deposited into the general fund pursuant to this subsection,]~~ \$3,000,000 shall be allocated ~~[subject to the mutual agreement of the board of land and natural resources and the board of directors of the Hawaii tourism authority]~~ to the special land and development fund established under section 171-19, to be expended pursuant to title 12 in accordance with the [Hawaii tourism authority] long range strategic plan for tourism developed by the Hawaii tourism authority for:

(A) The protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural resources important to the visitor industry;

(B) Planning, construction, and repair of facilities; and

(C) Operation and maintenance costs of ~~[public lands]~~ state parks, beaches, and trails, and costs associated with improving enforcement of ancillary regulations, connected with enhancing the visitor experience.

All transient accommodations taxes shall be paid into the state treasury each month within ten days after collection and shall be kept by the state director of finance in special accounts for distribution as provided in this subsection.

As used in this subsection, "fiscal year" means the twelve-month period beginning on July 1 of a calendar year and ending on June 30 of the following calendar year."

SECTION 8. Section 201B-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is repealed.

~~["**§201B-8.5**—Revenue bonds for conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu. (a)~~

~~As authorized by section 6 of Act 81, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, the authority shall issue revenue bonds to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu. The public shall have perpetual public access to said conservation easement. The conservation easement shall be in compliance with chapter 198.~~

~~Prior to executing the agreement to acquire the conservation easement, the authority shall:~~

~~(1) Obtain an appraisal and perform its due diligence on the conservation easement and property rights proposed to be acquired; and~~

~~(2) Offer to hold an informational briefing for the legislature. The offer shall be made through the president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives.~~

~~(b) For the purpose of this section, the authority shall be deemed a "department" and the acquisition of the conservation easement shall be deemed an "undertaking" under chapter 39.~~

~~(c) The revenue bonds issued to acquire the conservation easement shall be secured by and payable from the transient accommodations tax revenues allocated to the Turtle Bay~~

~~conservation easement special fund established pursuant to section 201B-8.6. For this purpose, the revenues allocated shall be deemed "user taxes" for the undertaking.~~

~~(d) The revenue bonds shall be issued in accordance with chapter 39, part III. The authority shall request the director of finance, on behalf of the authority, to perform the duties specified under section 39-68 regarding the preparation, sale, and administration of the revenue bonds."~~

SECTION 9. Section 201B-8.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is repealed.

~~["**§201B-8.6] Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund.** (a) There is established the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund.~~

~~(b) Transient accommodations tax revenues allocated to the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund pursuant to section 237D-6.5 shall be deposited into the special fund. All interest earned on the moneys in the special fund shall be credited to the special fund.~~

~~(c) Moneys in the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund shall be expended to pay the debt service on revenue bonds issued to acquire the conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, pursuant to section 201B-8.5.~~

~~(d) The Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund shall be exempt from the central service expenses of section 36-27 and departmental administrative expenses of section 36-30."~~

SECTION 10. Act 81, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, is amended by repealing sections 5 through 8.

~~"[SECTION 5. (a) The executive director of the Hawaii tourism authority and the director of finance shall enter into negotiations to restructure the debt owed to the department of~~

budget and finance for the convention center so that the annual amount payable on the debt service is not more than \$16,500,000 until fully retired.

~~(b) If the debt is not restructured as required under subsection (a), no state funds, including revenue bond funds, shall be expended to acquire any conservation easement or other real property interest in Turtle Bay, Oahu, notwithstanding the authorization under section 201B-A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and sections 6 and 7 of this Act.~~

~~SECTION 6. (a) The board of directors of the Hawaii tourism authority, with the approval of the governor, is authorized to issue revenue bonds in the sum of \$40,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the purpose of acquiring a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, as authorized under section 201B-A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.~~

~~(b) The board of directors, with the approval of the governor, shall issue the revenue bonds under such terms, conditions, and maturity dates that do not require any debt service payment to exceed \$3,000,000 in any fiscal year.~~

~~(c) If the board of directors cannot issue revenue bonds in accordance with the conditions of this section or section 201B-A or chapter 39, part III, Hawaii Revised Statutes, no state funds shall be expended to acquire any conservation easement or other real property interest in Turtle Bay, Oahu.~~

~~SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the revenue bond proceeds authorized by section 6 of this Act the sum of \$40,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to carry out the purpose of section 6; provided that any unexpended or~~

~~unencumbered balance of the appropriation shall not lapse at the end of fiscal year 2014-2015 and shall lapse instead on June 30, 2016.~~

~~The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii tourism authority for the purpose of this Act.~~

~~SECTION 8. This Act shall not be severable. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, then the entire Act shall be invalid.]"~~

SECTION 11. (a) The department of budget and finance, with the approval of the governor, is authorized to issue revenue bonds in the sum of \$40,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of financing the acquisition of a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, and the same sum shall be deposited into the North Shore special fund.

(b) The department of budget and finance, with the approval of the governor, shall issue the revenue bonds in such aggregate principal amount and under such terms, conditions, and maturity dates such that the required payments of principal and interest on the revenue bonds shall not exceed \$3,000,000 in any fiscal year.

SECTION 12. There is appropriated out of the North Shore special fund the sum of \$40,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 to finance the acquisition of a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu. This sum shall be deposited in the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of budget and finance for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the Turtle Bay conservation easement special fund the sum of \$40,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

PART II

SECTION 14. In codifying the new sections added by [~~section 4 of~~] this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating the new sections in this Act.

SECTION 15. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 16. This Act shall take effect upon approval.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii tourism authority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

Ronald Williams
Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of
Ronald Williams
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
S.B. No. 284, Proposed S.D.2
Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax
House Committee on Water & Land
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325

The Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) supports S.B. No. 284, S.D.2, with some amendments.

Act 161, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, amended section 237D-6.5, to provide that \$3 million of the excess TAT revenues deposited into the general fund be allocated for programs to support the protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural resources important to the visitor industry, including planning, construction, and repair of facilities, and operation and maintenance costs for public lands connected with enhancing the visitor experience. The phrase "deposited into the general fund," however, created a problem because those funds could not be expended by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) without being further appropriated.

Part I of S.B. 284, Proposed S.D.2, corrects this error by:

- Providing, in SECTION 2, that the \$3 million be allocated to the Special Land and Development Fund for the operation and maintenance costs of state parks, beaches, and trails, and costs associated with improving enforcement of ancillary regulations;
- Amending section 171-19, which creates the Special Land and Development Fund, to provide that monies in the Fund can be used for the "planning, development, management, operations or maintenance of all lands and improvements under the control and management" of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, pursuant to title 12, HRS, provided that TAT funds allocated to the Fund shall be expended in conformance to the HTA's long-range strategic plan; and

Part II of S.B. No. 284, S.D. 2:

- Assigns to DLNR the acquisition of the Turtle Bay conservation easement;

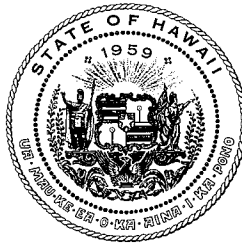
- Authorizes the Department of Budget and Finance to issue \$40 million in revenue bonds to acquire the conservation easement;
- Provides for the allocation of \$3 million in TAT revenues for the payment of debt service on revenue bonds, including ongoing expenses related to the issuance of the bonds, for the acquisition of the Turtle Bay conservation easement; and
- Repeals the provisions of Act 81, which relate to the HTA's responsibilities for the acquisition of the Turtle Bay conservation easement.

We appreciate that the responsibility for the acquisition of the conservation easement has been given to DLNR. However, of concern to HTA is that Part II establishes as the highest priority for the allocation of TAT revenues, the allocation of \$3 million annually in TAT revenues to pay the debt service on the bonds for the Turtle Bay conservation easement, including the ongoing expenses for the acquisition. S.B. No. 284, S.D.2, also creates a confusion because, like Part I, it proposes a different to section 237D-6.5(b), HRS, which does not correct the error that the original S.B. No. 284 proposed.

We recommend that Part I of the bill be deleted because the issues addressed in Part I have been adequately addressed by an amendment to H.B. 444, in the Senate.

We realize that S.B. No. 284 is a work in progress. While we support the provisions assigning the acquisition of the Turtle Bay conservation easement to DLNR, we are cautious of the impact of the changes to the allocation of TAT revenues and the changes to section 237D-6.5.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer these comments.



**TESTIMONY OF SIMEON R. ACOBA, CHAIR,
STATE-COUNTY FUNCTIONS WORKING GROUP, ON
SENATE BILL NO. 284, SENATE DRAFT 2,
RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX**

**House Committee on Water & Land
March 25, 2015**

Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

I am Simeon R. Acoba, Chair of the State-County Functions Working Group. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 284, Senate Draft 2, relating to the transient accommodations tax (TAT). This measure would, among other purposes, allocate \$3 million of TAT revenues to the Special Land and Development Fund.

The Working Group was created by Act 174 (SLH 2014) and administratively placed within the Office of the Auditor. The Working Group, which first convened in October 2014, is comprised of 13 members appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each of the county mayors, and the Chief Justice. The group is assigned the following responsibilities:

- 1) Evaluate the division of duties and responsibilities between the State and counties relating to the provision of public services; and
- 2) Submit a recommendation to the Legislature on the appropriate allocation of the transient accommodations tax revenues between the State and counties that properly reflects the division of duties and responsibilities relating to the provision of public services.

Act 174 requires the Working Group to submit two reports: 1) an Interim Report, which was delivered to the Legislature, Governor, and each of the county mayors, on December 18, 2014; and 2) a Final Report with its findings and recommendations to the same parties 20 days prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session.

The Working Group will continue its work through 2015 and shall cease to exist upon the adjournment sine die of the 2016 Regular Session. We note that any TAT legislation passed this year may affect the on-going work of the Working Group. Accordingly, while we take no position on the merits of this bill, we respectfully request your consideration of deferring decisions on TAT legislation introduced this year to the 2nd year of the 28th State Legislature to enable the the Working Group to complete its work. As required by Act 174, the Working Group will report its findings and make recommendations prior to the 2016 Regular Session.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Senate Bill No. 284, Senate Draft 2. I am available for your questions.

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

LAND FOR PEOPLE

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 284, SD 2

House Committee on Water & Land

Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 10:30 a.m., Room 325

The Trust for Public Land strongly supports SB 284, SD 2 relating to the transient accommodation tax. This bill proposes to transfer the duties relating to the acquisition of a conservation easement over the coastal and shoreline lands surrounding the Turtle Bay Resort from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and extend the time for completion of the acquisition. The Trust for Public Land will be contributing \$3.5 million to the overall \$48.5 million conservation transaction. The State will be contributing \$40 million. The City and County of Honolulu will be contributing \$5 million.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is the public agency most familiar with conservation easements and the due diligence related thereto. DLNR has staff and attorneys who support the department who understand and have worked with conservation easements in many contexts. DLNR is the public agency best suited to take on the responsibilities of completing the due diligence related to the conservation easement, and acquiring and closing the conservation easement transaction.

Also, while substantial progress has been made and an enormous amount of the State's staff time and State's money have been invested in the due diligence (appraisal, review appraisal, environmental and other reports) and legal documentation relating to the conservation easement, additional time is needed to complete/refine these tasks, consult with the Legislature, re-finance the convention center debt, and issue the revenue bond.

We thank the Chair and the House for moving this important bill forward to make the conservation of the shoreline lands surrounding the Turtle Bay Resort possible. Preserving this wild coastline and open space is a wise investment of State funds – giving the public access to over 5 miles of shoreline for beach-going, fishing, swimming, surfing, and wildlife watching, securing public access to nearly 8 miles of trails on private land for jogging, hiking, and biking (maintained at no cost to the State), saving habitat for endangered monk seals, green sea turtles, endangered Hawaiian waterbirds, and migratory birds, and preventing the disturbance of iwi (Hawaiian burials). Our children will look back and thank us for saving this special place and we thank you for making this possible.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -



Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands State Director



**NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST'S TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF SB 284, SD 2
House Committee on Water & Land
Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 10:30 a.m., Room 325**

North Shore Community Land Trust (NSCLT) strongly supports SB 284 relating to transient accommodation tax. This bill extends the time to fund and close the Turtle Bay Conservation Easement and designates the Department of Land and Natural Resources as the lead agency responsible for duties relating to the acquisition of a conservation easement over the coastal and shoreline lands surrounding the Turtle Bay Resort.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is the public agency most familiar with conservation easements and the due diligence related thereto. Indeed, DLNR staff has been working hard to move this transaction forward. And while substantial progress has been made and an enormous amount of the State's staff time and State's money have been invested in the due diligence (appraisal, review appraisal, environmental and other reports) and legal documentation relating to the conservation easement, additional time is needed to complete/refine these tasks, consult with the Legislature, re-finance the convention center debt, and issue the revenue bond.

We thank the Chair and the House for moving this important bill forward to make the conservation of the shoreline lands surrounding the Turtle Bay Resort possible. Preserving this wild coastline and open space is a wise investment of State funds – giving the public access to over 5 miles of shoreline for beach-going, fishing, swimming, surfing, and wildlife watching, securing public access to nearly 8 miles of trails on private land for jogging, hiking, and biking (maintained at no cost to the State), saving habitat for endangered monk seals, green sea turtles, endangered Hawaiian waterbirds, and migratory birds, and preventing the disturbance of iwi (Hawaiian burials). Our children will look back and thank us for saving this special place and we thank you for making this possible.

This is a good bill designed to achieve the 2014 Legislature's intent in passing HB 2434 last session. SB 284 will ensure perpetual conservation of 665 acres of undeveloped coastal land at Turtle Bay, including Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point and will establish public access to this priceless coastline and over eight miles of privately maintained, publicly enjoyed recreational trails.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -

Doug Cole
NSCLT, Executive Director

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS, Disposition for special land and development fund

BILL NUMBER: SB 284, SD-2

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This bill adjusts earmarks on the transient accommodations tax (TAT) that feed various special funds. Earmarks decrease transparency and accountability of government operations and should be avoided.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 237D-6.5(b)(5) to specify that \$3 million of transient accommodations tax revenues shall be allocated to the special land and development fund to be expended pursuant to title 12 in accordance with the long-range strategic plan for tourism developed by the Hawaii tourism authority. Also provides that such revenue shall also be used for the operation and maintenance costs of state parks, beaches, and trails, and costs associated with improving enforcement of ancillary regulations connected with enhancing the visitor experience.

The proposed measure also makes nontax amendments to authorize the department of budget and finance to issue \$40 million in revenue bonds and to use the proceeds to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu. Allocates transient accommodations tax revenues of \$3 million annually to department of budget and finance to pay the debt service on the revenue bonds and ongoing expenses related to the bonds

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2050

STAFF COMMENTS: The legislature by Act 161, SLH 2013, made permanent the TAT rate of 9.5% and changed the allocations of TAT from a percentage basis to a specific dollar amount. Currently, TAT revenues are allocated as follows: (1) \$26.5 million is deposited into the convention center enterprise special fund; (2) \$82 million is deposited into the tourism special fund; (3) \$103 million is transferred to the various counties; (4) \$3 million for debt service of the Turtle Bay conservation easement, and (5) any remaining revenues deposited into the general fund of which \$3 million is to be allocated according to the Hawaii tourism strategic plan. While this measure would delete the phrase “of the excess revenues deposited into the general fund pursuant to this subsection” and provide that \$3 million of TAT revenues shall be allocated to the special land and development fund, it would appear that any excess revenues after all allocations of TAT revenues are made will still be deposited into the general fund since HRS section 237D-6.5(b) states that TAT revenues shall be distributed as follows with excess revenues to be deposited into the general fund.

The proposed measure would add another siphon of TAT revenues, and would perpetuate the earmarking of TAT revenues. While proponents of earmarking of the TAT argue that if these projects or programs are not funded, none of the pristine beauty that visitors come to see will be preserved, one could make the argument on the other side. If there are insufficient funds to promote the industry, then

visitor counts will drop and so will the income that fuels the state's economy. Lawmakers seem to have lost sight of the fact that visitors also contribute to state coffers directly through the 4% on everything they purchase in Hawaii including hotel rooms, visitor activities and purchases of food and souvenirs. To that extent, a good part of the general fund tax collections is contributed by visitors. If the argument is that visitors should pay for other "visitor related" programs, then paying for those programs out of general funds would be more appropriate than stealing the money from what is identified as a tax paid specifically by the visitor.

Rather than the continual earmarking of TAT revenues, a direct appropriation of general funds would be preferable. Earmarking the TAT revenues for these programs that not only benefit the visitors but the community at large, decreases transparency and accountability.

Finally, it should be remembered that revenues earmarked into a special fund, in this case the special land and development fund, will not be counted against the state's spending ceiling or debt limit and will obscure the state's true financial condition.

Digested 3/16/15

Testimony of Brooke Wilson
Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee on Water & Land
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

SB 284, SD2 – Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
10:30 AM
Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee,

PRP is a not-for-profit organization that represents the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state, and more than 240 of Hawaii's top contractors. Through this unique partnership, PRP has become an influential voice for responsible construction and an advocate for creating a stronger, more sustainable Hawaii in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs and enhances the quality of life for all residents.

We support the intent of SB 284, SD2, which would issue revenue bonds to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural resources important to the State.

The conservation easement achieves the community's goal of preserving 665 acres of North Shore land which includes 5 miles of wild coastline, 8 miles of recreational hiking trails and habitat preserves for endangered monk seals, waterbirds and green sea turtles. This compromise represents a balanced approach to development, and reflects community feedback gathered in a two-year extensive outreach process.

For the reasons mentioned above, we humbly ask you to help protect the Turtle Bay land and keep SB 284, SD2 alive. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you.



cullen4-Rachele

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:54 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mz@conservehi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marjorie Ziegler	Conservation Council for Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports this measure. Mahalo nui loa for hearing this bill and making land conservation happen at Turtle Bay.

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:00 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: shockleyjr@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John & Rita Shockley	FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii's residents are counting on you, our elected representatives to support this bill that will protect O'ahu's North Shore land from unscrupulous developers into the future. Please don't let us down, our children and their children are counting on you to do the right thing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 2:08 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: carl.campagna@kamakagreen.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM*

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:03 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: auntyaina@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a neighbor island resident who travels to O'ahu on vacation, I will likely stop coming to visit if this bill to protect Turtle Bay does not get passed. You all thought it was a good idea in 2014, why isnt this deal done already? Thank you in advance for supporting this bill and protecting Turtle Bay, one of O'ahu's natural treasures.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 2:38 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: JOHN.LEONG@PONOPACIFIC.COM
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Kakou! I am writing in strong support that the House should pass SB284. The Turtle Bay project is a project that is important to our entire state as we continue to protect and preserve special open spaces and leave room for agriculture and conservation in Hawaii. The recreational, cultural, and natural resources saved are priceless. · The public will have access to over 5 miles of shoreline and nearly 8 miles of trails located on private land. The landowner will maintain these trails and public accesses at no cost to the State. This is a beloved public space full of wildlife, recreational space, and community space that needs to be preserved. The House passed the Turtle Bay Makai bill almost unanimously in the 2014 session. By failing to support passage of SB284, the House would loose all the positive traction gained since the bill passed last session. Furthermore, as a technical amendment, no money is being requested. Using savings from the refinancing of the Hawaii Convention Center to finance the revenue bond is appropriate. Over half (or over 2.5 million) of visitors to O'ahu go to the North Shore to enjoy its undeveloped, natural beauty. Visitors are paying for the preservation of these lands, and other important projects are not impacted. I ask you to please support the passing of this bill. Mahalo, John

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 1:58 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: changkwaix@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Preservation of these lands are supported by everyone, not just North Shore residents. Please allow this to happen, it has been a long time coming.

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March 24, 2015

Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Legislators,

My name is Leslie Uptain. I live in Waikiki, and am writing to request your support for SB284. This legislation is a technical amendment to a previous bill that passed with overwhelming support in the 2014 legislative session. SB284 will allow for the protection of 665 acres of land surrounding Turtle Bay Resort by transferring responsibility for the transaction from HTA to DLNR. It will also extend the deadline to complete the project to allow sufficient time to issue the revenue bond.

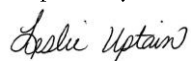
I feel that this bill is important because the North Shore serves as a welcome retreat from Honolulu's crowded bustle—the nearby place to experience the coastal beauty and natural bounty so reflective of Hawaii's heritage. Residents across Oahu consistently unite to maintain the North Shore's rural character. Perhaps no stretch of the North Shore epitomizes its bounty like that between Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point. To ensure it is protected, passage of Turtle Bay Makai – Kahuku/Kawela Forever SB284 provides for technical amendments to the previously approved bill, which will:

- Resolve forever the decades-long threat to this scenic shoreline by preventing 665 shoreline acres from being developed in the future. Residents and visitors will be able to appreciate 5 miles of shoreline and 8 miles of trails on private land.
- Keep the coast open to the community, island residents, and tourists for hiking, fishing, surfing, and exploring, at a fraction of the cost of a fee purchase (potentially up to \$200 million) without burdening government with expensive ownership. The landowner (NOT the state) will bear the costs of operation and maintenance.
- Preserve habitat for monk seals (Honey Girl just gave birth to a pup at Kahuku Point), green sea turtles, endangered Hawaiian water birds, and migratory birds.
- Protect high-quality wildlife habitat around the Punaho'olapa Marsh (home to four species of endangered Hawaiian water birds), the National Hawaiian Humpback Marine Sanctuary, and the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge
- Use savings from the refinancing of the Hawaii Convention Center to finance the revenue bond. Over 2.5 million visitors go to the North Shore every year to enjoy its undeveloped, natural beauty. It is appropriate that visitors pay for its preservation, and other important projects are not impacted.

Residents, tourists, endangered monk seals, green sea turtles, and sea birds all relish this remarkable coastline. These natural lands could be lost to development unless we invest now to preserve this amazing place.

I ask you to support SB284 to save these priceless lands for generations to come. Please contact me with any additional questions you may have.

Respectfully Yours,



Leslie Uptain
Waikiki Homeowner and Concerned Citizen
435 Seaside Ave #307, Honolulu, HI 96815
luptain@yahoo.com / 808-781-5181

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 2:37 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: lynettewilliams@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynette Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am writing in support of SB284, which will allow for the protection of 665 acres of land surrounding Turtle Bay Resort. Residents, visitors, and our rare native wildlife will all benefit from the protection of this very special part of O'ahu. These natural lands could be lost forever unless we take action now to preserve these irreplaceable treasures. I ask you to support SB284 to save these priceless lands for generations to come. Mahalo for your service to our community! Mahalo nui loa, Lynette Williams 44-126 Kauinohea Place Kaneohe, HI 96744

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Aloha mai,

I write today to strongly urge our House members to please pass SB284.

The House passed the Turtle Bay Makai (Kahuku/Kawela Forever) bill almost unanimously in the 2014 session. By failing to support passage of SB284, the House would completely reverse its own prior overwhelming support of the Turtle Bay Makai project and ignore tremendous community support in 2014 for the project.

This is just a technical amendment (no additional money requested) transferring responsibility for the transaction from the Hawaii Tourism Authority to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and extending the deadline to complete the project to allow sufficient time to issue the revenue bond.

Using savings from the refinancing of the Hawaii Convention Center to finance the revenue bond is appropriate. Over half (or over 2.5 million) of visitors to O'ahu go to the North Shore to enjoy its undeveloped, natural beauty. Visitors are paying for the preservation of these lands, and other important projects are not impacted.

The conservation easement preserves the land at a fraction of the cost of buying the land in fee simple (probably \$100-200 million). The costs of operation and maintenance of the trails that will be open to the public will be borne by the landowner, not the State, which is already challenged taking care of its existing inventory of parks and trails. Potential liability and risks of the public using those trails and enjoying the open space will also fall on the landowner, and not on the State.

The conservation easement prevents 665 of shoreline acres from being developed in the future. Residents and visitors will be able to appreciate 5 miles of shoreline, 8 miles of trails on private land - 665 acres of open space. Habitat for monk seals (Honey Girl just gave birth to a pup at Kahuku Point a few weeks ago), green sea turtles, endangered Hawaiian water birds, and migratory birds will be preserved.

The conservation easement includes the two golf courses at Turtle Bay so they cannot be developed in the future. The State's appraisal gives no (zero) value to the golf courses. The State is NOT paying any money to preserve golf courses.

Mahalo nunui for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miwa Tamanaha', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miwa Tamanaha
94-1144 Mo'olelo St
Waipahu, HI 96797

cullen4-Rachele

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:43 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: nimboy44@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Quinlan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB284

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cullen4-Rachele

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:44 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: dontbealolo@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point. Mahalo, Bryan Phillips
Pupukea Resident

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:45 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Choon James	CountryTalkStory.com	Support	No

Comments: SUPPORT SB 284 Aloha, Mahalo for your support of Turtle Bay Conservation budget that was approved last year. We understand it is a lot of money. But it's a very small investment when compared to the inevitable BILLIONS of dollars that would be needed to mitigate the multiplier impacts of massive developments on our narrow 2-lane country road aka Kamehameha Hwy. This country road from Kahalu'u to Haleiwa is flanked by kama'aina homes and businesses. It is also constantly bombarded by ocean waves and action on the makai side. Keep the Country Country conservation efforts not only protect this rural golden goose for Hawaii's tourism industry, it also protects the natural resources for Oahu. This is the more sustainable land use policy to implement. The needed fund that you approve will help protect this natural treasure as well as help contain inevitable impact costs down the road. It's the prudent public policy to support. Your decision today will enrich the happiness and sustainable future of Oahu's residents. Mahalo! Choon James Kahuku ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:36 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: dawilkinson83@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Drew Wilkinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:48 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: qwavesjoe@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To the House Water & Land Committee, and All Members of the Hawaii State Legislature: I Strongly Support SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point. Conservation of Hawaii's scenic resources - particularly the few places left on crowded, urbanized Oahu - is essential. The state should use all the appropriate tools at its disposal to make sure it happens. Joe Wilson 58-125 Iwia Place Haleiwa, HI 96712

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:38 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mabrigo222@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM*

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marianne Abrigo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: waltestimony
Cc: flipperhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pete Hodgson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support SB284 and preserve the Turtle Bay/Kawela Bay area for future generations to enjoy. Thanks, Peter Hodgson

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:51 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: natalie.mckinney@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM*

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie McKinney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 284, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

Senate Bill 284, Senate Draft 2 proposes in PART I to allocate \$3,000,000 of Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) revenues to the Special Land and Development Fund to be expended in accordance with the long-range strategic plan for tourism developed by the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA). Senate Bill 284, Senate Draft 2 proposes in PART II to: 1) Authorize the Department of Budget and Finance to issue \$40,000,000 in revenue bonds and to use the proceeds to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu; 2) require the transfer of the conservation easement to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department); and 3) Allocate transient accommodations tax revenues of \$3,000,000 annually to the Department of Budget and Finance to pay the debt service on the revenue bonds and ongoing expenses related to the bonds. **The Department supports the intent of this measure but respectfully asks this committee to consider instead, the Administration's proposed House Draft 1 as offered by the Department of Budget and Finance with a proposed amendment as discussed below.**

The Department requests that SECTION 2 of the proposed House Draft 1 offered by the Department of Budget and Finance be amended as follows **in bold**:

SECTION 2. Chapter 37, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§37-A Revenue bonds for conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu. (a) The department of budget and finance shall issue revenue bonds to provide funding for the acquisition of a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu, for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural resources important to the State. **The public shall have**

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LATE

perpetual public access to said conservation easement. The conservation easement shall be in compliance with chapters 171 and 198.”

The purpose of this amendment is to restore the public access requirement provision from Act 81, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014. The provision was unintentionally deleted, as it was never the intention of the proposed House Draft 1 to deny public access. Public access to the conservation easement area is a priority for the Department, and will be required in terms and conditions of the conservation easement document as well.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 284 SD2 Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax
House Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 10:30AM, Room 325

LATE

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.

The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 284 SD2 and its provisions to:

- Clarify the distribution and allowable uses of the \$3m in TAT revenue allocated to the DLNR Special Land and Development Fund; and
- Issue \$40m in revenue bonds for acquisition of the Turtle Bay conservation easement, including
 - an extension of time to complete the conservation easement transaction; and
 - debt service on the bonds from separate TAT revenue.

Hawai'i's globally unique environment is amongst the top reasons visitors from all over the world come to these islands. There is also widespread agreement that Hawai'i's fragile environment is in need of improved management and protection. In addition, climate change is an imminent and unprecedented threat to natural systems (forests, coastlines, coral reefs) and to every resident and visitor that—whether they know it or not—depends on services from a healthy and functioning natural environment.

Presently, the DLNR receives about 1% of the State's general fund budget to oversee and care for millions of acres of natural lands and waters. Obviously, not all of the cost of protecting these resources should be laid at the feet of the visitor industry; it's everyone's responsibility because we all benefit and are at risk. And, while litter and graffiti clean ups and park restroom repairs are important, long term, larger investments are needed in:

- **Forest** management to ensure that they are as healthy as possible to capture as much rain (drinking water) and hold as much soil as possible as climate change brings more severe individual storm events, but overall less rainfall and more long term drought events;
- **Coral reef** and near shore management to ensure that they are as healthy as possible to withstand the warming and acidification effects of climate change and still provide storm protection, seafood, and a continuing visitor attraction;
- **Invasive pest** prevention and control so that at the same time we are inviting the world to our shores, we are not also granting easy access to the world's pests and diseases; and
- **Compliance** and enforcement for those who choose not to respect these natural resources.

We all have a stake—including the visitor industry—in the general health and function of Hawai'i's finite natural environment and resources as a:

- **Raw material** that supports the lifestyle and livelihood of every resident, visitor and business;
- **Service** that if not healthy and functioning will not deliver basic elements like fresh water needed for any person or business to thrive in the middle of the Pacific ocean; and
- **Product** that we market to the world to get them to vacation, do business and invest here.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support for this measure.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Hawai'i Construction Alliance

LATE

P.O. Box 179441
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 348-8885

March 24, 2015

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
and members
House Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and members:

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry.

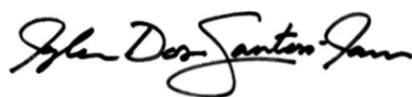
The Hawai'i Construction Alliance **supports SB284 SD2**, relating to the transient accommodations tax (TAT). SB284 SD2 would allocate \$3,000,000 of TAT revenues to the special land and development fund to be expended in accordance with the long-range strategic plan for tourism; authorize the B&F to issue \$40,000,000 in revenue bonds and to use the proceeds to acquire a conservation easement in Turtle Bay, Oahu; require the B&F to transfer the conservation easement to the DLNR; and allocate TAT revenues of \$3,000,000 annually to the B&F to pay the debt service on the revenue bonds and ongoing expenses related to the bonds.

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance has long been an advocate for responsible growth and development at Turtle Bay Resort, which we believe will produce positive economic impacts for the North Shore community, generate thousands of construction and resort jobs, and preserve valuable agricultural lands. During the last legislative session, we testified in support of the compromise "Conservation Easement Option" proposed by the Turtle Bay Advisory Working Group, which we believe is a thoughtful plan that balances job creation and greater economic opportunities with the preservation of valuable open space and agricultural lands.

The proposal as it stands now would preserve 665 acres of land at Turtle Bay, covering nearly 79% of the open space lands currently owned by Turtle Bay Resort. The proposal would also allow for the construction of two small hotels, which will generate 750 construction jobs over five years, 750 permanent jobs on the resort grounds, and stimulate the creation of 450 new permanent indirect jobs within the community.

In order to ensure that the conservation easement is able to move forward, we respectfully ask your committee's favorable consideration of SB284 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Aloha,



Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Executive Director
Hawai'i Construction Alliance



LATE

**HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST'S
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB284
RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX**

**Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 10:30am, Conference Room 325**

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) supports the efforts of the North Shore Community Land Trust, The Trust for Public Land, and others to permanently protect important cultural, agricultural, recreational, and natural resources on the Turtle Bay lands. Provided the terms are adequate and restrictive, HILT supports the use of conservation easements to preserve such resources for the benefit of current and future generations of Hawai'i residents and visitors. HILT applauds all those who have worked so hard towards these efforts.

Sincerely,

Edward S. Clement, Jr.
Executive Director, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust
ted@hilt.org
808-633-1057

House WAL Committee
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol - Committee Room 325
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 24, 2015



Aloha Representatives-

The Defend O'ahu Coalition is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of a diverse group of community residents, environmentalists, activists and religious leaders, all working toward one immediate goal: protecting rural communities on O'ahu from the dangerous effects of large-scale development. Our Coalition's formation stemmed from an immediate threat posed by the revival of a decades-old expansion plan at Turtle Bay Resort. For the past nine years, Defend O'ahu has been the vanguard of the movement to "Keep the Country COUNTRY!".

Though many of our members are not North Shore residents, they still value and appreciate the North Shore and its pristine coastlines. We believe that the beautiful open spaces and shorelines on our island are for all residents and visitors to enjoy and we are committed to ensuring that these precious lands will be a resource for generations to come.

The revenue bond financing plan approved last session for the purchase of a conservation easement at Turtle Bay will provide the public – in perpetuity -- with access to 5 miles of spectacular shoreline, 8 miles of beautifully maintained trails, breathtaking open space and wild beaches, and save 665 acres of land surrounding the resort from future development. The recreational, cultural, and natural resources saved are priceless.

Defend O'ahu Coalition supported the conservation agreement last year and **strongly supports SB 284 SD2**, which would extend the deadline to fund the Conservation Easement at Turtle Bay, insert the Department of Land and Natural Resources as lead agency and improve some of the technical clauses regarding the financing for the agreement.

These technical amendments (**requiring no additional money**) are needed to finish the job. To help Governor Ige make this long-held dream become a reality, please vote to pass SB284.

Mahalo for your time-
Tim Vandever
Co-Chair, Defend Oahu Coalition
(808) 388-0660

cullen4-Rachele

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 8:58 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: pamelaboyar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM*

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Farm Lovers Farmers Markets	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:16 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: fosters005@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Rights	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point. Please kokua.

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LATE

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Hearing Scheduled 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 25, 2015, Conference Room 325
SB 284 SD 2, RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX
Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii has concerns with SB 284, SD 2. This bill allocates \$3,000,000 of transient accommodations tax revenues to the special land and development fund to be expended in accordance with the long-range strategic plan for tourism; authorizes the Department of Budget and Finance to issue \$40,000,000 in revenue bonds to acquire a conservation easement at Turtle Bay, Oahu; allocates transient accommodations tax revenues of \$3,000,000 annually to amortize the revenue bonds; and transfers the Turtle Bay conservation easement to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

To resolve procedural issues the League requests that SB 284, SD 2, HD 1 be rewritten in a manner which involves total repeal rather than amendment of Act 81, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2014. Because neither the subject nor the provisions of Act 81, SLH 2014, had a public hearing during the 2014 legislative session, we question whether Act 81 had three readings in the State House and three readings in the State Senate as required under our State Constitution.

To minimize ambiguity and risk of litigation, the League requests that SB 284, SD 2, HD 1 clarify what public uses and what private uses will be permitted on the property where a conservation easement will be acquired. Under the current wording of SB 284, SD 2, after expenditure of \$40 million of public funds, it is entirely possible that no public uses will be allowed on the private property. In fact Section 9 of SB 284, SD 2, repeals Section 201B-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, under which "The public shall have perpetual access to said conservation easement...."

To minimize ambiguity and risk of litigation, the League requests that SB 284, SD 2, HD 1 clarify whether an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be required under Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for either the proposed use of public funds to acquire a conservation easement or for subsequent private applications for discretionary approvals to use property where public funds were spent to acquire a conservation easement. It is not clear to us whether DLNR's EA Exemption List applies to use of state funds to acquire a conservation easement if the property owner is likely to use the state payment to fund additional development of the affected property. (Chapter 343 is "triggered" by the proposed use of public funds to acquire a legal interest in improved property. DLNR's EA Exemption List would apply if the "acquisition does not cause any material change of use of land ... beyond that previously existing".) It also is not clear to us whether private property subject to a conservation easement would be considered "state lands" under Chapter 343. (Chapter 343 is "triggered" by a private application for a discretionary approval which involves "use of state lands".)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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cullen2-Sheila Marie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:48 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: cwatanabe@unitehere5.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM*

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Gill	UNITE HERE Local 5	Support	Yes

Comments:

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LATE



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

25 Malunui Ave., Suite 102., PMB 282 • Kailua, HI 96734 • Phone/Fax: (808) 262-0682 E-mail: htf@lava.net

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair
Rep Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

SB 284 SD2
RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

March 25, 2015

Committee Chair and members;

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to comprehensive planning and reasonable, responsible and appropriate land and water use, supports SB 284 SD2 that creates a conservation easement at Turtle Bay.

We all know that Oahu's North Shore is a special place but like many "special places" in our state development threatened to diminish public access to and the natural, recreational and cultural values of 665 acres of land.

Creation of a conservation easement ensures that there will always be adequate and undisturbed habitat for green sea turtles, endangered Hawaiian waterbirds, migratory birds and endangered Hawaiian monk seals.

Creation of a conservation easement ensures that present and future generations will be able enjoy natural and wild areas for hiking, wildlife-watching, beach going and fishing that the North Shore offers.

Please leave this magnificent legacy to future generations and pass SB 284 SD2.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:46 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: zacharyhitchcock@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zachary Hitchcock	Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter	Support	No

Comments: Zachary Hitchcock Chairman, Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter 1533 Artesian Way Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 Dear Water and Land Committee, I have been frequenting the North Shore of Oahu, since 1978. In the last decade, I worked at Turtle Bay, and became more aware of its beauty and have been devoted to help preserve this natural treasure. We need this land to stay pristine, despite the expansion plans the owners of Turtle Bay are proposing. By financing the purchase of the surrounding acreage and applying a conservation easement with the Department of Land and Natural Resources overseeing it, you are helping to do the right thing for all of Hawaii. I strongly, viscerally, and spiritually support Senate Bill 284(SB284). Please, preserve this land in perpetuity, and make the righteous choice for Hawaii's future. Thank you so much for your service. Sincerely, Zachary Hitchcock 808-222-6960

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LATE

Testimony in support of Senate Bill #284

Why do we have to acquire a conservation easement over most of the Turtle Bay Resort?

The Turtle Bay Resort (TBR) was approved in a very political process in the early 80s to build a **Kaanapali sized resort**. Approvals were for an **additional 3500 units (10 x the existing)**. Up-zoning included state urban land use and County Hotel/Resort use. In 2006 the resort owner, Oaktree Capital, was proceeding with this plan to expand the project when Keep the North Shore Country (KNSC) sued to require an updated EIS. KNSC and its co-plaintiff, Sierra Club, after four years of litigation won at the State Supreme Court in 2010. TBR completed the Supplemental EIS (SEIS) in 2012. KNSC and almost all environmental organizations in Hawaii took exception to their Draft SEIS which was accepted by the City. A second lawsuit was filed seeking a revised SEIS in late 2013. This lawsuit was settled a few weeks ago, **however, this settlement is contingent on successful completion of the Conservation Easement (CE)**.

Why is the Conservation Easement a good deal for the State of Hawaii?

1. Kawela Bay is a unique resource in the world. North shore beachfront vacant residential lots have sold for up to \$8 million in 2014. The east half of the Bay by itself removed from development is worth more than the \$40 million; in addition, it conserves hundreds of acres of lands in the unique Kahuku Point forever. **To buy the land in fee or purchase the development rights will cost up to ten (10) times as much as acquiring this conservation easement.**
2. An easement provides better conservation of Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point than does a direct State purchase. If the State owns the land, a future Governor and/or Legislature can decide to sell the land to a developer. This is not the case with a CE.
3. It is a public private partnership which means:
 1. **The cost of operation and maintenance of the trails, parks and golf courses is the Resort's responsibility.**
 2. Visitors to the resort, the island and the residents will be able to appreciate the shoreline, beach, golf courses, trails, cultural and environmental resources including the monk seal birthing habitat.
 3. **It leverages (10:1) limited governmental resources to achieve conservation through cooperation not confrontation.**
4. It is the right thing to do, avoids unnecessary controversy/confrontation and sets a useful precedent for future conservation of critical resources in Hawaii.

It is invalid to compare the Turtle Bay Resort Conservation Easement of hundreds of acres of beachfront resort zoned land with direct purchase of the Ka Iwi non ocean front lands on a steep hillside in conservation zoning. The Turtle Bay transaction is a good investment and has been approved by the Legislature. **It is very important for public-private partnerships to have integrity and continuity.** So, please allow Governor David Ige and his chief of Staff, Mike McCartney, to complete the negotiations including excellent public access and protection of the cultural and environmental assets.

Aloha,
Lucky Cole, KNSC Treasurer
www.keepthenorthshorecountry.org
[808-554-8113](tel:8085548113)

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cullen2-Sheila Marie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:59 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: maheaholzman@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mahealani Holzman	North shore community land trust	Support	No

Comments: My husband and I live on the north shore of Oahu. We both grew up in Hawaii and we know the importance of having a balanced ecosystem by persevering our land and natural resources. We support SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:53 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: andreaswimsunset@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM*

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: waltestimony
Cc: ahuntemer@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the passage of SB284. It is a long negotiated and previously passed measure. Please make this historic move to preserve a rare and fragile coastal wetland for endemic plants and animals, North Shore neighbors, Oahu residents at large and and visitors. Mahalo, Angela Huntemer M.Ed North Shore Oahu.

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Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 5:46 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: BillLaffertyND@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Lafferty	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a resident of California and I come to the North Shore of Oahu for at least 10 days every winter and Kawela Bay is by far my favorite spot on the North Shore, from the Bay itself, to the trails, to those enormous trees, there's nothing quite like it. I would love for you guys to keep it that way! Thanks for your time! Bill Lafferty

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 8:44 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: brimohi@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Emmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Even though I am not a North Shore resident, I feel these are VERY important lands that need to be preserved forever, for all residents of O'ahu, Hawai'i, and even for tourists! Please pass SB284! ALOHA

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:18 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: cath@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this very important bill! I have worked very hard with a large number of resident voters to get this opportunity to preserve a coastline of major importance. Mahalo!

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 6:06 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: cwyiii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point.

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Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 7:32 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: seachip@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chip Hartman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 284 in order to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point. Mahalo

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Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 12:40 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: ddruz@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Druz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point.

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:59 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: deanhamer@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean hamer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill and whatever measures are needed to preserve Turtle Bay. There is no questions that this is money "well spent." In 50 years from now, the price will be ten times higher! Land is always a good investment, especially when it is protected for the use of all our citizens. And please note that the current head of the Torusim Authority previously worked for the PPC; I am worried he actually wants more hotels up there to help the development at Laie.

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cullen4-Rachele

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To: waltestimony
Cc: antolinid@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Antolini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for your key leadership in keeping SB284 alive and helping the State of Hawaii protect (1) the critical conservation programs and budget of DLNR; and (2) the spectacular coastline and natural resources embraced by the Turtle Bay Conservation Easement!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 6:57 AM
 To: waltestimony
 Cc: gayll@xcelwetsuits.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gayl Loose	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass SB284 and preserve the area surrounding Turtle Bay resort for all of the reasons listed below but especially so that the people of Hawaii and our future generations can enjoy and experience the natural beauty of the area. •The deal ensures that no hotels/residences will ever be built on 665 of valuable North Shore land. The recreational, cultural, and natural resources saved are priceless. •The public will have access to over 5 miles of shoreline and nearly 8 miles of trails located on private land. The landowner will maintain these trails and public accesses at no cost to the State. •People love this area and enjoy it for beach-going, surfing, wildlife-watching, swimming, jogging, hiking, and fishing. Habitat for green sea turtles, endangered Hawaiian monk seals (Honey Girl just gave birth to a pup a few weeks ago at Kahuku Point), endangered Hawaiian water birds, and migratory birds will be saved. Iwi (burials) will be protected and remain undisturbed. •The House passed the Turtle Bay Makai bill almost unanimously in the 2014 session. By failing to support passage of SB284, the House would completely reverse its own prior overwhelming support of the Turtle Bay Makai project and ignore tremendous community support in 2014 for the project. •This is just a technical amendment (no additional money requested) transferring responsibilities from the Hawaii Tourism Authority to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and extending the deadline to complete the project to allow sufficient time to issue the revenue bond. •Using savings from the refinancing of the Hawaii Convention Center to finance the revenue bond is appropriate. Over half (or over 2.5 million) of visitors to O'ahu go to the North Shore to enjoy its undeveloped, natural beauty. Visitors are paying for the preservation of these lands, and other important projects are not impacted. •The conservation easement preserves the land at a fraction of the cost of buying the land in fee simple (probably \$100-200 million). The costs of operation and maintenance of the trails and open space will be borne by the landowner, not the State, which is already challenged taking care of its existing inventory of parks and trails. Potential liability and risks of the public using those trails and enjoying the open space will also fall on the landowner, and not on the State. •The conservation easement includes the two golf courses at Turtle Bay so they cannot be developed in the future. The State's appraisal gives no (zero) value to the golf courses. The State is NOT paying any money to preserve golf courses.

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cullen4-Rachele

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: waltestimony
Cc: rog@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Say Yes! This is right for our island, this is right for our people and our promise to preserve the natural lands of our North Shore! Thank you!

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:11 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: hawaiianryan1977@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jesse ryan kawela allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please please please pass this measure! A very large number of voters have put much time and energy into this bill! We are paying attention to this bill and your Votes matter! Mahalo!

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Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 6:02 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jkern@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judy Kern	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass SB284 to protect Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point!

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 11:33 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: pahinuik001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen M Pahinui	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill is important to protecting our island's green spaces for our keiki. Keeping the country , country is not just a slogan, it is a short-hand description of a philosophy of protecting our aina now and into the future. Please do not let the bill die on your watch. Malama aina, Kathleen M. Pahinui

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:17 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: hunakai5@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point!

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Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 7:28 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: kolja@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kolja Rotzoll	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha I strongly support SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point. Please support the Turtle Bay Conservation deal and stand by the Governor's efforts to join together the business, development, conservation, and environmental community in a collaborative effort that is beneficial for all. The revenue bond financing plan approved last session for the purchase of a conservation easement at Turtle Bay will provide the public, in perpetuity, with access to 5 miles of spectacular shoreline, 8 miles of beautifully maintained trails, breathtaking open space, and wild beaches, and save 665 acres of land surrounding the resort from future development. The State is finishing its appraisal, title review, and other real estate due diligence. The closing of this highly complex transaction is on the horizon. Governor Ige's SB284 is a technical amendment that transfers the responsibility for the transaction to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and extend the time for completion from June 2015 to June 2016 to give the State needed time to finance the revenue bonds and ensure the conservation deal will close. These technical amendments (requiring no additional money) are needed to finish the job. To help Governor Ige and the residents of Oahu make this long-held dream become a reality, please vote to pass SB284. Mahalo

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LATE

March 24, 2015

Aloha,

I am writing you in support of SB 284 to conserve Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point. These precious lands must not fall victim to development of any kind, like so many other places in Hawaii have in recent years. All that does is it puts money in the pockets of developers and permanently destroys nature for everyone else who lives here.

I live in Hawaii Kai and I love the North Shore. I take my 4 kids there all the time to surf, ride bikes, camp and just relax. The air is fresh and the water is clean. Most of the rest of Oahu has been ruined by development, including where I live. The island looks like Florida or California. The spirit of the island is slowly dying with each new parcel of land that is cleared and built upon. We don't need more hotels. We don't need more condos or homes. No one can afford to live here anyway. New construction on the North Shore is mostly for tourists, not for those who have grown up here and who cherish things like trees, flowers and open space next to the ocean. We have no place else to go.

I used to live on both Kauai and the Big Island. I saw massive development on those islands as well, and the charm and rural character there are gone. Developers come in and build fancy homes that cut off beach access, for dwellings that are used by their wealthy owners once or twice a year. It drives prices up so high that regular homes become out of reach. Homeless people live in the bushes in Pupukea. What is going on? We didn't have these problems before development desecrated the island. It has to stop.

Children need to see nature. It is calming and nurturing. It encourages them to put down their phones and electronic games. It reconnects them with beauty, peace and tranquility, rather than the agitation of daily life. It is healthy and fun. Hawaii kids have the opportunity to play outside all year long, but the more their natural playgrounds are taken away, the more they tend to just stay inside glued to their computers. This contributes to obesity and other health issues. It makes them unhappy and stressed. The destruction of nature is contributing to other much larger problems in society. The North Shore has to save what little land it has left. The long term benefit outweighs the short term cost.

The North Shore is the last bastion of unspoiled nature that is accessible and useable for ocean activities on this island. Even tourists appreciate that. So to consider opening up this land for development is to me, completely shameful. Hawaii is beautiful and special BECAUSE of the nature, and one of the most beautiful treasures still left is this track of land around Kawela Bay and Kahuku Point. Please vote to conserve them.

Mahalo nui loa,
Leslie Truglio

cullen4-Rachele

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 7:02 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: meganbark@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM*

SB284

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Bark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:22 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mikeheh100@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Heh	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Representatives- I write today to humbly ask that the House stand by its earlier overwhelming vote (48-2-1) in support of the Turtle Bay Conservation deal and stand by the Governor's efforts to join together the business, development, conservation, and environmental community in a collaborative effort that brings out the best in all of us! The revenue bond financing plan approved last session for the purchase of a conservation easement at Turtle Bay will provide the public – in perpetuity -- with access to 5 miles of spectacular shoreline, 8 miles of beautifully maintained trails, breathtaking open space, and wild beaches, and save 665 acres of land surrounding the resort from future development. The State is finishing its appraisal, title review, and other real estate due diligence. The closing of this highly complex transaction is on the horizon. Governor Ige's SB284 is a technical amendment that transfers the responsibility for the transaction to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and extend the time for completion from June 2015 to June 2016 to give the State needed time to finance the revenue bonds and ensure the conservation deal will close. These technical amendments (requiring no additional money) are needed to finish the job. To help Governor Ige make this long-held dream become a reality, please vote to pass SB284! Mahalo for your time. Mike and Maria Heh, Kahuku 57-086 Eleku Kuilima Place #105, Kahuku

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:18 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: ninaalena@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nina Alena Beatty	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this! Please pass! Mahalo. Life-long resident of the North Shore. Nina Alena Beatty

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 7:32 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: makikirandy@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass SB284. The 665 acres should be in conservation for eternity. Thanks.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:04 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: rob@counterculturehawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Barreca	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support conservation of Turtle Bay with SB 284. The public has rallied behind the protection of one of the most pristine pieces of land left on O'ahu. The hard work has been done, the public and private support is there, please work with the governor in this collaborative effort and give SB 284 the attention it deserves so we can protect a small corner of O'ahu for generations of tourists and residents to come.

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cullen2-Sheila Marie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:47 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: annietbi@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Gommers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB284! It is short term thinking to believe that O'ahu and the North Shore in particular will retain desirability if the land is consumed by dwellings, hotels and so forth. It is impossible for our roads and infrastructure to support more traffic than we already have. A bond issue makes sense and was the Governor's idea and a good one. Please support retaining our conservation lands!!!! Do not ruin the North Shore Thank you for your service. Ann Gommers, Waialua

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cullen2-Sheila Marie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:18 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: annelakeoswego@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Clark	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please submit my testimony in support of the passage of SB 284

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 7:28 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: blakemcelheny@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blake McElheny	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Representatives. Please support SB284. Preservation of this special place for the benefit of the public is supported by people State-wide. Conservation of this coastline benefits all of Oahu and the State, preserving the natural and wild areas that generations to come will appreciate and enjoy. The conservation deal ensures that no hotels/residences will ever be built on 665 of valuable North Shore land. The recreational, cultural, and natural resources saved are priceless. The public will have access to over 5 miles of shoreline and nearly 8 miles of trails. The Turtle Bay landowner will maintain these trails and public accesses at no cost to the State. Thank you very much. Take care, Blake McElheny Pupukea

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LATE

Aloha Representative -

I write today to humbly ask that the House stand by its earlier overwhelming vote (48-2-1) in support of the Turtle Bay Conservation deal and stand by the Governor's efforts to join together the business, development, conservation, and environmental community in a collaborative effort that brings out the best in all of us!

The revenue bond financing plan approved last session for the purchase of a conservation easement at Turtle Bay will provide the public – in perpetuity -- with access to 5 miles of spectacular shoreline, 8 miles of beautifully maintained trails, breathtaking open space, and wild beaches, and save 665 acres of land surrounding the resort from future development.

The State is finishing its appraisal, title review, and other real estate due diligence. The closing of this highly complex transaction is on the horizon.

Governor Ige's SB284 is a technical amendment that transfers the responsibility for the transaction to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and extend the time for completion from June 2015 to June 2016 to give the State needed time to finance the revenue bonds and ensure the conservation deal will close. These technical amendments (requiring no additional money) are needed to finish the job.

To help Governor Ige make this long-held dream become a reality, please vote to pass SB284!

Mahalo for your time.

Carol Moy

Kuilima Estates East

Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

cullen2-Sheila Marie

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:39 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: greggatchell@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Gatchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: House should pass SB284. Preservation of this special place is supported by everyone, not just North Shore residents. I live in Honolulu and have a busy job as a physician. I rely on "unplugging" on weekends and vacations by enjoying the natural beauty that the North Shore provides. The North Shore is beloved island wide and statewide. Preserving the natural and wild areas of the North Shore will allow our future generations the ability to enjoy it.

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Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 6:00 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jaredunderwood@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Underwood	Individual	Support	No

Comments: House should pass SB284 Preservation of this special place is supported by everyone, not just North Shore residents. I live in Kailua and support this preservation effort. Preserving the natural and wild areas benefits all of O`ahu and the State.

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Cc: hoalike5@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary M. Barter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The legislature must find way to complete this deal. Missing this opportunity to preserve one of the last remaining pieces of old Hawaii on the overdeveloped island of Oahu would be the future legacy of shame for all those who failed to act to secure, for the public Turtle Bay, from the fate of Waikiki.

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I am writing to request the House pass SB284.

I am a volunteer with the Monk Seal Foundation. Since 2010, I have been driving to Turtle Bay from Kaneohe to monitor and do outreach for the Hawaiian Monk seals. Since that time, there have been 5 female seals born between the Keiki pool and Kahuku Point. These seals will most likely return to Turtle Bay to give birth to their pups one day. I fear development will change all of that. Where will the most endangered marine mammal in the United States go to have their pups on Oahu if we develop all of the areas where they haul out and especially where they have pups.

Turtle Bay is a natural, beautiful, mostly unspoiled area, full of endangered plants and species. The Nene geese that came back to Oahu after 100 years spent a lot of time on the golf course here. An albatross pair has been seen flying around Kahuku Point for the past few years. Fishers come to fish, hikers to hike, tourists and locals alike love the beauty of this area. It is important to keep some areas pristine. There are many tourists who appreciate "non-touristy" areas and locals who do not want to have their special places destroyed by development.

Another thing I have noticed since 2010 is the increased traffic. Development will definitely make the traffic worse. This area does not have the infrastructure to support more development. Will tourists still want to come to Oahu if it takes all day to drive to the North Shore? How long will it take people to get to and from work?

Please don't go back on your word. You voted this in before and it should be passed. Please keep some beauty for our future generations. Please care about this unique area. Once it is developed it can never be returned to its pristine state.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

cullen2-Sheila Marie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:24 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: rmoore@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randolph Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representatives, I encourage your approval of this measure. The North Shore of Oahu is a recreational resource for the entire island, not only for those who live on the North Shore. Acquiring the easement over much of the Kuilima-Kahuku shoreline that is the subject of this bill would preserve it for all time for current and future residents. Mahalo for your consideration!

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cullen2-Sheila Marie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:40 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: holmbergr002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruth Holmberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support preservation of Kahuku Point and Kawela Bay for the people of Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 8:38 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: studiogibson@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB284 on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM*

SB284

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WAL on Mar 25, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

Shannon Wood, *President*

Windward Ahupua`a Alliance, a 501c3 organization established in July, 2002

P.O. Box 6366

Kane`ohe, HI 96744

Voicemail: 808/247-6366; Cellular: 808/224-4496

Website: <http://www.waa-hawaii.org>; E-mail: info@waa-hawaii.org

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

10:30 am

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Conference Room 325

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

SB 284 SD2 - RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX **STRONGLY SUPPORT**

The *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* began its research in late 2006 to address the significant issues dealing with *Turtle Bay's* employment & economic future, affordable housing & transportation concerns, and a wide range of environmental matters.

The first formal meetings with the *State Legislature*, the *Department of Land & Natural Resources* and the *Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism* were in January, 2007. These meetings were following by working with the *Honolulu City Council's* key leadership and the *Hannemann Administration*.

WAA urges the **2015 Legislature** to support this special place by preserving the natural and wild areas that future generations will appreciate and enjoy.

Mahalo for your support.